

Media Advisory Avis aux médias

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EXPERT PANEL BEFORE PARLIAMENT TO DISCUSS REFORMING ACCESS TO MEDICINES REGIME

OTTAWA, October 20, 2009 — Two leading NGOs will appear before the Senate's Standing Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce to explain why Senators should fix Canada's Access to Medicines Regime (CAMR), which has so far delivered little by way of affordable medicines for AIDS and other diseases to developing countries. Médecins Sans Frontières will outline the difficulties it faced in trying, without success, to use CAMR to help patients it is treating. The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network will outline how Bill S-232 aims to streamline the current law to make it more user-friendly and effective in a manner consistent with Canada's international legal obligations.

EVENT A: News Conference
DATE: **Wednesday, October 21, 2009**
TIME: **11:00 to 11:30 a.m.**
LOCATION: **Charles Lynch Press Theatre**
Room S-130, Centre Block
Wellington Street, Ottawa

EVENT B: Appearance before Senate Committee
DATE: **Wednesday, October 21, 2009**
TIME: **4:00 to 6:00 p.m.**
LOCATION: **Committee Room 9**
Victoria Building, 140 Wellington Street
Wellington Street, Ottawa

SPEAKERS:

- **Richard Elliott**, Executive Director, Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network
- **Rachel Kiddell-Monroe**, Advisor, Access to Essential Medicines Campaign, Médecins Sans Frontières / Doctors Without Borders
- Other representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

Over 43 organizations, including AIDS organizations, international development and humanitarian organizations, student groups, medical groups and other civil society groups support simplifying CAMR in order to ensure access to affordable medicines by people in developing countries. These groups have advocated for change because the current regime is ineffective, having been used only once in its five years of existence.

Background material is available at www.aidslaw.ca/camr.

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